Financial assistance to terrorists in Punjab by pro-Khalistani elements abroad

43. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the pro-Khalistani elements abroad are trying to finance and encourage terrorists in Punjab with a view to saving their separatist movement from being isolated; and

(b) if so, what are those groups abroad which have been sending huge funds through clandestine means and encouraging terrorists through inflamatory literature and whether Government have taken up this matter with the Government of those countries where separatist plans are hatched and if so, what is their response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government are aware that certain so-called pro-Khalistani elements/organizations located mostly in USA, Canada, Western Europe, Pakistan are clandestinely sending funds and undesirable literature to terrorists in Punjab. Government are alert about the threat posed by these terrorists activities against India from abroad. On different occasions, the Government of India have taken up the matter with the concerned foreign Governments. Majority of them have shown understanding of the problem.

Target for commercial borrowings from abroad

44. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a target has been fixed by Government for commercial borrowings from abroad during the Seventh Plan Period; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) The Seventh Plan provides for a total flow, at 1984-85 prices, of Rs. 20,900 crores over the Plan period, by way of net aid and other borrowings. This is inclusive of all net receipts on account of bilateral aid/loans, multiliteral loans and external commercial borrowings.

Schemes to give protection to Jute Industry

45. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any comprehensive scheme to ensure that synthetics do not displace traditional jute goods, particularly the jute packing material; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) In order to protect Jute Industry from the adverse competition faced in the hands of Synthetics, Govt. have favoured mandatory usage of Jute Packaging materials by different sectors of the Industry. An empowered committee of Secretaries has been set up to work out the modalities.

Political interference in the working of Banks

46. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Bank Officers' Confederation has demanded that there should be no political interference in the matter of working of bank;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Times of India' on the 14th October, 1986 in this regard; and